**Joy and Anthony transcript**

- We are Joy and Anthony Wicks, we've been foster carers for a little over 16 years. We had a great house, we had the financial capability and most of all we had the time in which to offer a child.

- Providing that stability and routine is one of the most important things because then they can focus on everything else that is important in life.

- To have a child come into our care who has absolutely no self-worth, no self-esteem, has been in a situation where abuse is just their daily life, It's really important to grow them and then let them flourish and go from there. To see them complete primary school or complete high school, to have an amazing career that they are just absolutely perfect for and to then go out into the world and become a parent and be an absolutely amazing parent has been beautiful.

- Joy and I work really well as a team. When presented with a problem, we'll sit down and we'll hash it out. The agencies are very good at setting up support networks as well. Knowing that there's somebody there 24/7 that you can just pick up the phone and say, "I'm stuck, I don't know what to do, give me some advice." And they can go, "You do this," or they'll have somebody call you and say, "Hey, this is where we go from here."

- We're currently caring for an amazing young woman who has complex health and disability needs. Having her smile, having her communicate, to advocate, to make sure that she has just simple daily things met, it's something that we absolutely love.

- We have three children of our own. Relationship between our children and the foster children, that's actually beneficial. They sometimes see it as, "Oh, there's another child in the home so I've got a peer." Our kids, I think having the foster children in the home has sort of opened their eyes a bit too. There is an outside world and there is a community. This has always been our goal, is we're giving back to the community and trying to instil some good morals and set the next generation up for success.

- We need more foster carers. We need emergency care, we need respite care, we need long-term care. Whether it is a single parent, male or female, any form of relationship that you're in, if you are an adult who have a space in your life for even just one little person, even if it's for a short period of time, we need carers to invest in the lives of these young people.

- When people ask me, "Why do you do it?" Well, if I don't do it, who will? We feel like we're doing the right thing. And I think that's what it should be about.